

Enjoy this 'unique' 4th of July

By Col. Steve Paladini
48th Fighter Wing vice commander

The United States has changed a lot since independence was declared from Great Britain 221 years ago.

But from the first shots fired in Concord in 1776 to today's peacekeeping operations in Bosnia, the U.S. military has always been a team that Americans could be proud of, thanks to the unswerving dedication and patriotism of our military service members and their families.

As service members stationed in England, we have the unique opportunity to celebrate Independence Day with our British friends. Despite the stormy beginnings of the colonial era, British-American friendship today is extremely strong thanks to years of service and

commitment to each other. In the defense of liberty with a belief that people should be free, our troops stood side by side in two world wars, Desert Storm, and numerous other conflicts around the world. We share a common language (well almost!), share an artistic and literary cultural heritage, and often compete in international sports, such as the Ryder Cup and the America's Cup yacht races.

In our local community here, we represent and epitomize the friendship that America and Great Britain share. So it's very appropriate that we celebrate this Independence Day together as friends—a day to remember our heritage, look forward to our future and cherish our special friendships.

Have fun this Independence Day. Our Services Squadron has put together a fantastic line-up at RAF Feltwell for all to enjoy. Take your family and British friends out and have a great time, but please do it safely. See you all out there!

Action lines

The Action Line is your direct link to me for complaints, suggestions, or comments. It's not intended to replace the chain of command. When normal command and agency channels haven't been able to resolve your concerns, call (Ext. 2324), fax (Ext. 5367), e-mail (Action_Line), send through distribution (48 FW/PA), mail (48 FW/PA, Unit 5210 Box 215 APO AE 09464-0215), or hand carry your Action Line to the public affairs office (Bldg. 1085). You may remain anonymous; to receive a reply, leave your name, unit, duty or home phone number, and full APO mailing address. Names are confidential.



Steve Paladini
48th Fighter Wing
commander

Thanks to ER

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the doctors and staff who worked in the emergency room June 9. I would especially like to thank SSgt. Kenneth McGowan for all his extra effort and support. That evening, my four-year-old daughter sustained a cut to her finger which required stitches. At the emergency room, McGowan evaluated my daughter and explained each thing he was doing to her and why he was doing it. Additionally, since my husband was TDY

and couldn't be at the hospital with us, McGowan entertained my 19-month-old son so I could concentrate on my daughter. He really turned what could have been a very stressful experience around. When we left the emergency room, we were all smiling and none the worse for wear considering my daughter had just had minor surgery. Thank you for caring Sergeant McGowan—you really made a difference.

It was a pleasure to pass on your letter of appreciation to McGowan and the emergency room staff. It's easy to see how going the extra mile turned the experience into the best one possible for both you and your daughter. We are proud of the job they did and continue to do every day in meeting the urgent needs in our community.

More kudos

As I wrap up three and a half years at Lakenheath, I would like to address an item of interest to you.

For the past few years, I have been the (48th) Operations Group facility manager. During this tenure, I have been involved in many movements and new structures being built on the base. The communications requirements do not belong to me, but I am often called upon when things fall through the cracks. By the time I am called, it has normally become close to a crisis situation. That brings me to the point of this message.

The folks up at the 48th Communications Squadron have saved us more times than I can count. For years, I would drop a short suspense or past-due suspense on them, and they have always come through for us. It doesn't matter if it is wing command and control system, local area network, or phone requirements, they have always been there.

I would like to take this opportunity to single out two specific individuals by name.

Terry Prucha and Bill Drievergan have a talent for making things happen. Everyone up there has given me excellent support at all times, but these two gentlemen have always excelled and have actually helped me look good from time to time.

I have received excellent cooperation from all agencies on this base, but wanted to single out this unit. They have made my job much easier, and in doing so have allowed me to contribute to the overall efforts of the 48th Fighter Wing.

MSgt. Bryan Young
48th Operations Group facility manager

Correction

An action line in the May 30 issue of the Jet 48 incorrectly identified Dr. (Maj.) Mark Scheffer.



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